piss clear

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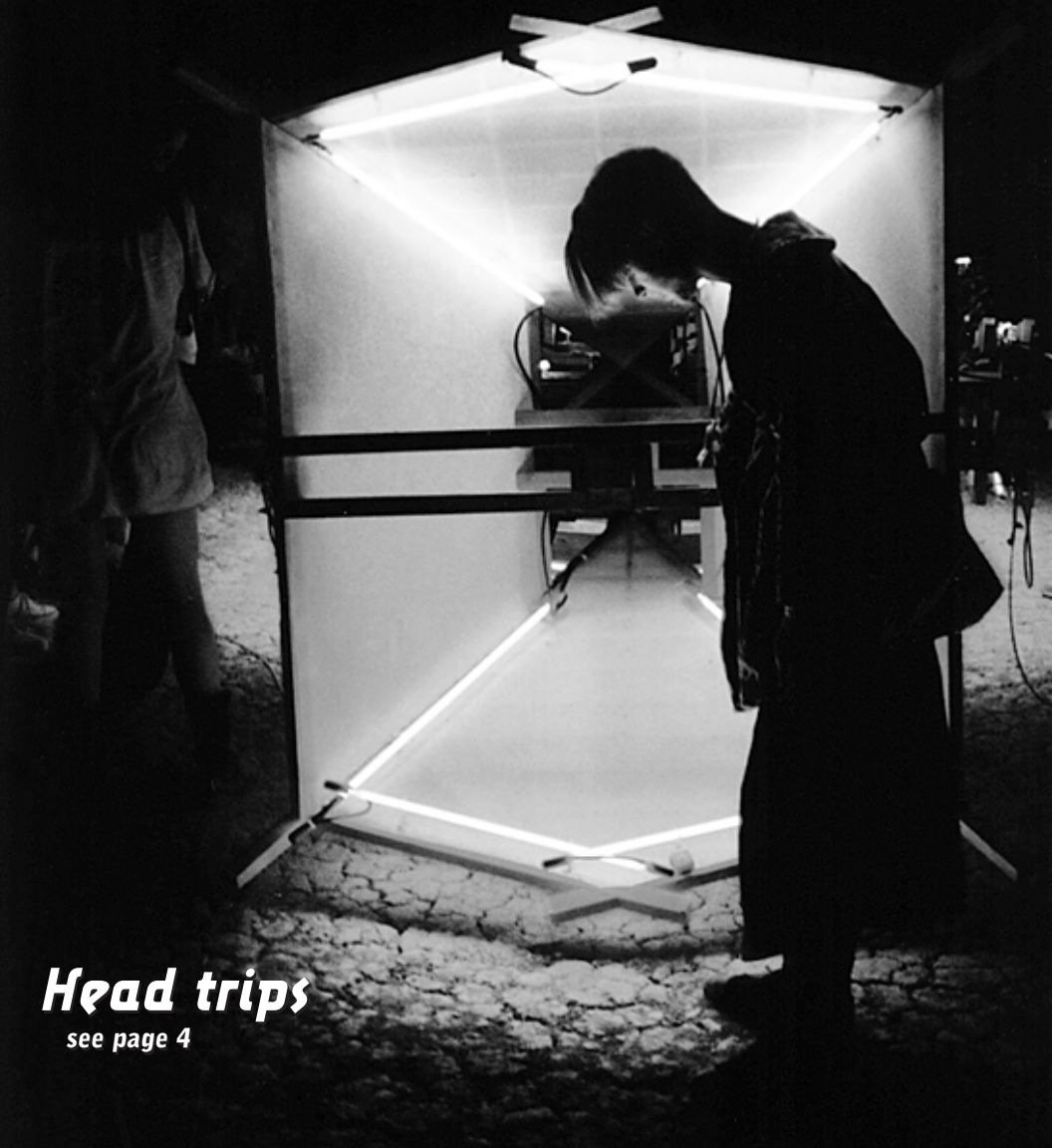

Head trips

see page 4

Black Rock City's *other* daily reader

Piss Clear

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31 august 1996
Black Rock City,
Nevada

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cover image:
The Burning Man
gets its head
examined by Adrian.
Photographed by
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Adrian Roberts

Tonight, tonight, tonight...

by ADRIAN ROBERTS

adrian's rant

This is it. This is the night. This is the night one wishes they could **clone** themselves. Why? Because there's simply **way** too much going on! It's damn-near impossible trying to catch every single **cool** event that's happening this evening. Bands, performance art, impromtu theatre, film screenings, pyrotechnics, the Techno Ghetto, the opera at the Fire Lingam, the list goes **on**—you need at least a few of you running around the playa, in order to catch it all! **Why** does it all have to **happen** at the same time?

Adrian Roberts

I'll tell you why. Because everyone who's been out here before knows that tonight—and **not Burn Night**—is where it's **at.** Tonight is when this town goes **ballistic.** For Newbies—Burning Man first-timers—tonight might seem like just a **dress rehearsal** for the greater things to come tomorrow evening. After all, burning down the Man is the whole reason they're out here in the first place.

But for those of us who have been here before, consider tonight **ours.** Think about it. We've **seen** the Man burn already. Last year. And the year before that. And maybe even the year before that. Granted, while watching a 40-foot tall effigy still has its dramatic moments, there seems to have developed a jaded, **"been there, burned that"** attitude amongst this **die-hard,** cynical crowd. They're not out here to see the Man burn. They're out here to see **things they've never seen before.** And tonight, there's definitely no shortage.

In fact, several people I know are **leaving** tomorrow, feeling that they'll have seen all that they need to see. Hell, at least they'll avoid all the hellish Labor Day traffic. They might be on to something.

But yes, tonight, Black Rock City turns into the **massive** party it's known for. After all, hardly anyone has to get up early tomorrow morning to drive back to civilization. There's little need for moderation. Tonight, strange things are most likely to happen—and often do.

Of course, this is often helped along in part by the liberal use and abuse of **psychoactive** substances. In order to help you navigate through the wide assortment of choices available, check out this issue's **drug guide,** which should help you decide exactly which one is right for you. Not that we're **condoning** drug use or anything...

Also, in keeping with the hedonistic, decadent theme for this particular issue, don't miss out on **Bitter love,** our new sex advice column from Dan Bitter. **Sex and drugs.** What more could you **want?**

Oh sure, and rock-and-roll. Well, we've got that too, but it's **not** what you think. For a take on rock music like you've never heard it before, **don't** miss the world's only inflatable band, Idiot Flesh. For a review, turn to page 6.

We hope you enjoy this particular issue of *Piss Clear* as much as we did putting it together. Have **fun** out there tonight, and don't get hurt.

Sunblock chemistry and you

survival

None of these contain avobenzone.

Out here in the Black Rock Desert, sunblock is not just a good idea, it's **essential** for your survival. However, you should note that not all sunblocks will protect you the same way, even if the **SPF** ratings are equal. Most over-the-counter products offer basic **protection** from only one type of ultraviolet radiation, known as UVB. For more complete protection, you should be using a sunblock that protects against both UVB and UVA, a second type of **ultraviolet** radiation.

UVA is the spectrum of sunlight that causes superficial **sunburn.** UVB is a longer spectrum of light that penetrates more deeply into the **skin.** It's believed that UVB may cause skin cancer, and its penetration builds over time. Check the label of your sunblock—the compound **avobenzone** offers the fullest protection against UVA rays. For the most complete protection though, your sunblock should contain zinc oxide or titanium dioxide—both of which act as a physical block—along with additional active ingredients. And be warned: **sunblocks** that are labeled "broad-spectrum" or "UVA/UVB" are less protective, since they contain oxybenzone or some other ingredient that blocks only a portion of the UVA spectrum. One last thing to remember—the SPF rating on sunblock only pertains to UVB **rays.**

Required reading for the Black Rock Desert

by LIZARD MAN

The Burning Man Survival Guide, from your registration package
Eric's web page at: http://www.chorus.com/~eric/bm95/
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas — Hunter S. Thompson
Red Mars — Kim Stanley Robinson
Dune — Frank Herbert

media exposure

For this particular list, the **survival guide** should be obvious, unless you're going for this year's Donner Party award. And **Eric's web page** gives what I thought was the most **personal** account of how Burning Man can take on deeply significant emotional **qualities** without ever being pinned down to one thing.

Hunter S. Thompson's *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* gives an excellent overview of what Nevada may seem to be to the **uncultured** mind. Often dismissed as merely anecdotes from a drug-crazed binge through the American Dream, *Fear and Loathing* contains **incisive** social commentary, like the point where Dr. Gonzo describes the great wave of social **consciousness** that arose somewhere in San Francisco during the '60s: "If you look west, toward the Sierra Nevada, you can see where the **wave** broke and rolled back on itself..."

Kim Stanley Robinson's *Red Mars* is the most scientifically-valid fictional account of the colonization of Mars I have yet seen. Along with a very accurate portrayal of the red desert planet, complete with **dust storms** and water as a prized commodity, the reader is treated to the unfolding of a **social experiment in community,** as various forces tug and pull at the fabric of a new society on Mars. As the population swells, these **forces** gain momentum. Hmmm.

And finally, *Dune* was a **masterpiece** that never could have been made successfully into a film. Forget the movie. Frank Herbert's *Dune* tells the story of a young man stranded on a desert planet, befriended by the **desert tribe** known as the Fremen. Besides containing wheels-within-wheels of plot intrigue, *Dune* carries an intimate knowledge of survival in the desert, treating the desert as a **powerful** force to coexist with and learn from, not to be tamed: "I will not be afraid. Fear is the mind killer. I will let the Fear wash over me, and when it has gone, only I will remain." Something like our lovely Black Rock Desert.

Choose your poison: a drug guide for the playa

by ADRIAN ROBERTS

ACID

Depending on the particular strength of the LSD you're using, **frying** in the desert can produce either a really great trip, or freak you out beyond belief. Start off in small doses—remember, you can always take **more,** but you can't take less. Things get pretty strange out here in the desert **anyway.** Taking acid merely intensifies the whole freakiness of the event; therefore, you probably don't need as much as you normally would to produce the same psychedelic trippy effects. And yes, it's **quite** an experience to look up at the night sky and see all of the stars **trailing.**

ALCOHOL

There's nothing quite like a nice cold beer in the desert, or hell, even a more civilized **cocktail.** What a shame then that alcohol dehydrates you like there's no tomorrow. Augment your consumption with plenty of H^2O chasers, and you'll be just **fine.**

COCAINE

What do you think this is, the **bathroom** of some trendoid breeder nightclub or something? Go home.

The infamous Piss Clear out-in list

OUT	IN
aerobic desert jogging	yoga
Astroturf™	fresh grass
Black Rock Gazette	*Piss Clear*
Black Rock Radio	Playable Television
blinking LEDs	laser pointers
brandings	top-of-head piercings
Central Camp	the "suburbs"
driving to rave camp	bicycling to rave camp
drum circles	sound systems
film crews	MTV crews
Herbal Ecstacy™	Ecstacy
hot springs	mud pit
listening to tapes	listening to the radio
"been there, burned that"	"first-time" excitement
mushrooms	mescaline
pipe bombs	cherry bombs
sing-alongs at the campfire	singing opera at the lingam
Sunday night	Saturday night
survivalist camping	bringing an RV
30 SPF sunblock	40 SPF sunblock
Three Day Stubble	Idiot Flesh
toting a gun	not toting a gun
web pages about Burning Man	web access from Burning Man

— compiled by Adrian Roberts, PF, and Heather Shirkey

ECSTACY

This is the *Piss Clear* staff's substance of choice for the Black Rock Desert. It's a real head-opening experience, **especially** out here. In general, you feel "more alive" and "full of love" and all that other goopy shit, but bluntly put, it simply makes you feel good. Excellent for couples or friends looking for that quintessential Burning Man **bonding** experience. Just make sure you're **near** a porta-potty near the beginning of your trip, and have plenty of hard candy on hand. And don't forget to drink copious amounts of water!

CRYSTAL METH

With so much cool stuff going on this weekend, who wants to **sleep?** If this is how you feel, then crystal meth might be your drug of choice. Be careful though. While you **might** be fine on crystal for the first 24 hours, if you're still going by the end of the weekend, your relentless, **hyper,** and no doubt cranky tweaker energy might just make you the **buzzkill** of the party. Use in small doses—speed bumps—and you might be **okay.** And like Ecstacy, don't forget to drink **plenty** of water.

HEROIN

Although currently in **vogue,** smack just doesn't seem very appropriate out here **in** the desert. Maybe it has something to do with the vomiting. Shoot up at home.

KETAMINE

For those who **want** to trip, but without the 6- to 12-hour **time** committment, Special **K's** one-hour excursion may be right for you.

MUSHROOMS

These feel really **nice** out here, but use only if you're planning **not** to be in a very social mood. If you're looking for that gooey, insular, looking-inward, find-your-place-in-the-**universe,** out-in-the-desert kind of trip, then you've come to the right place. However, if you don't want to miss out on anything that's going on, try something else.

MARIJUANA

Works really well out here, although be **careful** of too much, especially at **night,** when paranoid delusions can get the better of you. It's no **fun** walking to rave camp, thinking that **every** pair of headlights you see in the distance is going to run you over.

MESCALINE

To add a bit of "color" to your experience in the desert, mescaline **just** might do the trip. The same guidelines apply here as those for doing acid. Too much just might be too much. **Start** small, and build yourself up. Produces a fun "body buzz" feeling for **moving** through crowds.

Bitter love

by DAN BITTER

sex advice

Hey Breeder:

I'm 22 years old, straight, and very good-looking, or at least that's what all my current girlfriends say. My question is this: I heard Burning Man is a great place to get laid, but all the babes here are freaks. What's a tactful way to ask a chick if she has a pierced labia or some weird shit like that?

— Proudly Unpierced

Hey, P.U.:

I think there's a football game on in Gerlach. If you leave now, maybe you can catch the last quarter.

Hey Breeder:

I met this cute guy in the mud pit yesterday, and we started talking and stuff, when all of a sudden he let his load out right there in the pit! I told him he was disgusting and inconsiderate of everyone else in the mud, but he swears he didn't come. He says it's common for a white slimy liquid to come out of the penis spontaneously, and that it wasn't come. Now, I know better than that, but just to make sure, what do you think?

— Badly Spooged

Hey B.S.:

Of course it was cum, you ditz, and not only is it inconsiderate, it's also somewhat unsafe. With dozens of people squirming all over each other, any HIV-infected cum can easily squirm its way into someone's asshole or open wound. Although the infection risk sounds low, you might want to get tested, just to be sure.

Hey Breeder:

I like to practice safe sex in the desert, but I never know what to do with the condom afterwards. I don't want to just leave it there for someone to find on their way to rave camp, but I can't just lie there and hold it between my fingers while I'm cuddling. What do I do?

— Condilemma

Hey C:

Ever heard of a ziploc bag, bonehead? That's what they were originally designed for, holding used condoms. And make sure you put it in your non-burnables trash bag; you don't want to treat your fire-buddies to the aroma of barbecued sex.

Got a question for Dan Bitter?
Keep it to yourself, asshole.

Destiny fulfilled: Idiot Flesh plays Burning Man

by ADRIAN ROBERTS

Idiot Flesh performs tonight.

Katherine Copenhaver

band review

My second reaction upon witnessing Idiot Flesh live for the first time was, "This band should be playing at Burning Man! They're perfect!" Of course, this was well after my first reaction, which was an amalgamation of wide-eyed amazement, jaw-dropping awe, and sheer, mind-blowing excitement. No other band I have seen before or since—with the possible exception of Crash Worship—has even come close to evoking the kind of "head-swimming-what-the-fuck-is-this-I-love-it" response I had that evening.

So it was with great joy and elation when I discovered that Idiot Flesh was to be a part of the entertainment festivities at this year's Burning Man. What took this Oakland quartet so long in getting their asses out here? If ever there was a band tailor-made for the sort of controlled chaos that exists out here at Black Rock, they are it. Think about it. The band embodies and embraces so many of the elements that are quintessential Burning Man: fire-dancers, impromptu theatrics, participatory performance, a drumming-and-chanting intro procession, cross-dressing, inflatable costumes, painted faces,lessons in Black Math, occassional Butoh dance performance, macabre puppet shows. All done with a sly grin, a nudge, and a wink. Oh yes, and there's also the music.

The music! Hell, based on their on-stage antics and visuals, even if the music completely sucked, they'd still be interesting. But you know what the best part is though? The music does everything but suck. Frenetic, quirky, head-splitting rock, with a few circus and medicine show twists thrown in. "Rock against rock" is what they call it. Syncopated rhythms, time changes that happen so quickly your ears won't know what hit them, sing-along choruses in the middle of songs that have so many parts you can't keep track, and four musicians who play everything from a violin to a trombone to a homemade percussion guitar. Many times it sounds like they're trying to cram about 20 different tunes into a single song—and this is not a bad thing.

This is going to sound ridiculously cliché, but I can't resist using it: if you see just one band at this year's Burning Man, make sure it's Idiot Flesh. Your life may be forever changed. If nothing else, they will change your preconceived notions of what a rock band is supposed to look, sound, and act like. Which is, of course, exactly what they set out to do.

daily haiku

by PF

Labor Day Weekend
Who's laboring, anyway?
Not me, I'm chillin'

The Mousetrap is here
I can't wait to see it work
Wired says it's cool

Writing for Piss Clear
Shit, when will I get a life?
I mean, um, how cool!

Me and Uncle Dutch
Handing out some Spanq! paddles
Why are we working?

Lazy Saturday
Hanging out at McSatan's
You want fries with that?

It's so dark inside
The Camera Obscura
Hey, who pinched my butt?

Sex in the desert
Wind blows through my pubic hair
Oops, forgot the lube

Nam Gninrub. Um, hmmm
Yup, Burning Man spelled backwards
That's dumb, nevermind

Sunday night is nigh
Burn the man already, jeez
Anticlimactic

Today, you're on a spiritual quest, in pursuit of a higher consciousness.

On Tuesday, find out what you looked like naked.

Spanq!, the ground-breaking audio web show provides special coverage of the Burning Man festival. Tune in on Tuesday, September 3, and everyday at

http://spanq.com

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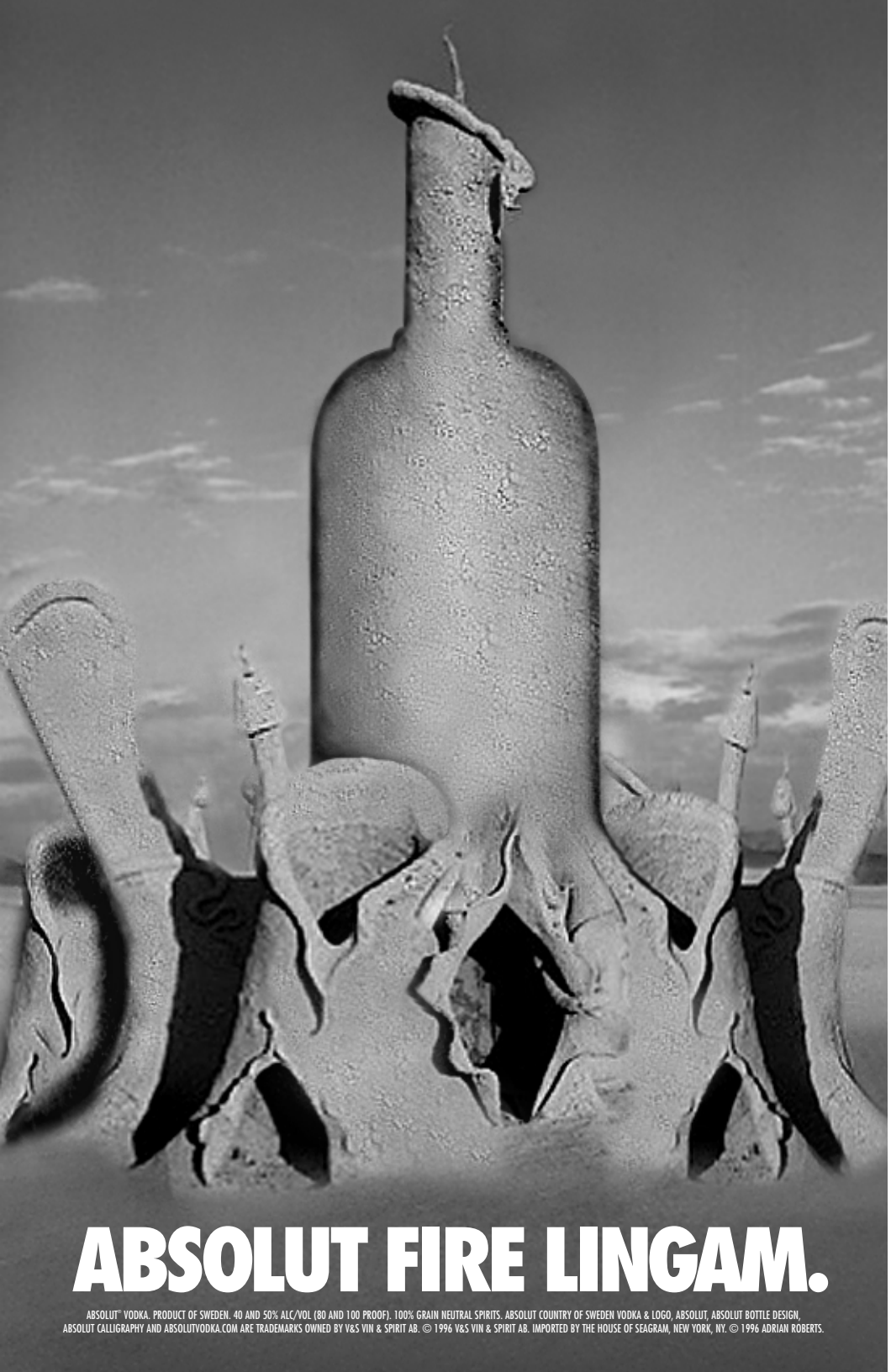

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